

SHEPPERSON'S DEATH FIRST AT LOCAL CLUB

Preliminary Boxer Who Died From Result of Ring Injuries
Initial Fatality—Did Not Appear To Be Injured After
Bout—Was Regrettable Accident.

BY BOB PIGUE.

When Timothy Shepperson, a young preliminary boxer, who appeared at the Southern Athletic club Monday night in a four-round bout against Kid Cox, died at the home of his parents Tuesday night as the result of ring injuries, it marked the first time that a boxer has ever died from participating in a boxing bout at the local boxing club. There have been staged fights without number, but until Shepperson succumbed Tuesday night the record of the Southern was clear.

Shepperson fought under the name of Battling Finnegan, meeting another youngster by the name of Kid Cox. Cox's name is James. They had been training together at the club, and were fast friends. In the ring, they laid out their friendship aside, and gave ring names to the fastest bouts that have been witnessed at the local club in many months. Finnegan was beaten, but fought such a game fight that he was given a big round of applause as he left the arena. He did not appear to be hurt at that time, although he carried a badly battered countenance as the result of blows dealt out by Cox.

NOT KNOCKED DOWN.

Finnegan was not knocked out or even knocked off his feet in his bout with Cox. He at no time appeared hurt, although on the receiving end of several hard punches. At the same time Cox was handing Finnegan some hard wallop. Finnegan himself gave Cox a few jolts that came close to knocking Cox out.

It was a whirlwind fight from start to finish, with no spectators dreaming that it would terminate fatally.

Attending physicians stated that the result of death was concussion of the brain sustained by a blow upon the temple.

Finnegan laughed and chatted gaily after the fight had ended, and along with Cox, he watched the remainder of the program. At no time did he complain, or appear to be hurt. He said nothing about being injured, and as he left his friends that night after the fight, he appeared to be all right.

Finnegan went into the office of the Southern Athletic club, where he was paid off by Promoter and Referee Billy Hane. Hane said to him: "You sure put up a great fight, Finnegan."

"I'll get him the next time," Finnegan replied. "I know I can beat him, and the next time I box him I'll get the decision."

Hane says that Finnegan did not appear hurt at all, although carrying the usual marks of bruises that preliminary boys usually get, not possessing the science to block the punches.

There is no blame that can be at-

ached to anyone connected with the club or Kid Cox, who dealt the blows that terminated the life of Young Shepperson.

It was a regrettable accident, one that could not have been avoided, and in the same class with accidental deaths that occur on the baseball diamond, the football gridiron and in other lines of sporting endeavor.

During the late baseball season there were 12 deaths from injuries. During the late football season there was one fatality in the major leagues—the death of Ray Chapman, shortstop of the Cleveland Indians, who was killed by a pitched ball.

The death of Young Shepperson is in the same class with the untimely taking off of those other athletes.

There is an element of danger in every line of sport and the participant takes that chance.

In boxing the danger is even less than in football, for the participants are usually about evenly matched, weigh about the same, and there's no hitting below the belt.

The death list in boxing is very low as compared to the fatalities in football. This is proven by the fact that the local boxing club has been operating for many years, and during this time thousands of fighters have appeared, but not until Monday night did a bout result fatally.

It is a very regrettable occurrence, one that is regretted by every fight fan that goes to the club.

TO GIVE BENEFIT.

Promoter Haack has authorized us to announce that at an early date the Southern Athletic club will put on a benefit boxing show for the family of Young Shepperson.

Haack regrets the occurrence as much as anybody, but knows that it was absolutely an accident, one that could not have been avoided. Neither Haack nor the club was in any way connected with the occurrence, and the club would have been stopped. Many boys have been beaten more than Young Shepperson, and it was one of those regrettable occurrences that could not be helped.

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BRINGING UP FATHER—By George McManus

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Jess Willard To Meet Dempsey March 17, 1921

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Tex Rickard announced today he had received contracts signed by Jess Willard, former world's heavyweight boxing champion; Jack Dempsey, present title holder, and Bill Brennan for a championship bout on March 17, 1921, between Willard and the winner of the Dempsey-Brennan fight here on Dec. 14. Reports to this effect have been circulating for some time, but official announcement of contracts having been signed was not made until today.

Rickard said the fight will be staged in Madison Square Garden unless the state boxing commission should prevent it. The size of the purse was not made public today.

TOLEDO MAY BE CHOSEN FOR BOUT

Carpenter and Dempsey Will Likely Clash at Famous Battleground.

TOLEDO, Dec. 1.—Negotiations were opened between Jack Kearns, manager of Jack Dempsey, world's champion heavyweight pugilist, and Ad Thacher, Toledo promoter, today with a view to staging the proposed Dempsey-Carpenter match in Toledo. Thacher received a telegram from Kearns in New York city asking the promoter to "look over the ground here and report to him by telephone." The two men are expected to confer later in the day.

According to Kearns it does not look probable that the bout can be staged in New York and there does not seem to be a logical location elsewhere at present. Thacher was Rickard's assistant in promoting the Willard-Dempsey bout here a year ago last July 4 when Dempsey won his title.

Thacher said today that he would go before the commission for a permit for a decision bout if he can make a satisfactory deal with Kearns.

MAYFIELD WILL PLAY PARAGOULD

(Special to The News Scimitar.) PADUCAH, Ky., Dec. 1.—Announcement was made by the manager of the Mayfield football team that a game has been scheduled with the Paragould team for Friday afternoon of this week in Paragould.

The Paragould team claims the championship for the state of Arkansas and Mayfield that of Kentucky. As yet the Mayfield club has been unable to arrange a match with either Louisville or Hopkinsville, but on its record claims superiority over both.

HORNSBY GOING INTO BUSINESS IN ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 1.—Rogers Hornsby, Cardinal second baseman, expects to go in business here, according to a telegram to the St. Louis chamber of commerce received from him last night. He did not state the nature of the proposed venture. Hornsby will take up his residence here this month, the telegram said.

CHARLIE CONWAY IS SEWANEEN CAPTAIN

SEWANEEN, Tenn., Dec. 1.—Charlie Conway, veteran end, has been selected leader of the 1921 Sewaneen Tigers. He has played consistently for many years and is one of the most dependable men on the team. The Purple and White could not have elected a better man.

BLUMHUT GETS OFFER.

OIL CITY, Pa., Dec. 1.—"Red" Blumhut, first sacker of last year's Oil City team, has received an offer to play with the Wichita Falls club of the Texas league.

The SPORTING SPOTLIGHT

By Bob Pigue

The spitball, which has fallen under the ban in the Southern league, will be revived and brought back into use if Red Torkelson, New Orleans moistballer, and other users of the saliva delivery, have their way. A combined effort is being made by the spitball pitchers of the Southern league to get the wet delivery reinstated, for it is claimed that it is unfair to bar a delivery that it took a pitcher many years to perfect, and which reduces his effectiveness many per cent. Torkelson was here a few days ago and was discussing the spitball proposition.

"It took me many years to get so I could use the spitball and win games with it, and two years ago I could easily get in the 400 and 700 class of hurlers by winning nearly two-thirds of my games, but as soon as the spitball was eliminated, I was like a fish out of water. I have other stuff beside the spitter, but I do not mind saying that it was my most valuable pitching asset. With it I would have won more games for the New Orleans club than I did last season, and with my additional victories, the chances would have been good for the Pels to have won the pennant."

As it was, I had a fair year, but I would have enjoyed a much better one had I been privileged to use the moist-ball.

"What I favor and what every other spitball pitcher favors, is to let us use the spitball so long as we are in the league, and at the same time let us have our spitballs. We can't get it in the league, and then the spitter will be gone, but it is a great handicap right now to cut us off from the spitball. We'll work out of the redhead, as he shifted his cud of Brown Mule to the other side of his law."

GRIMES TO THE BAT.

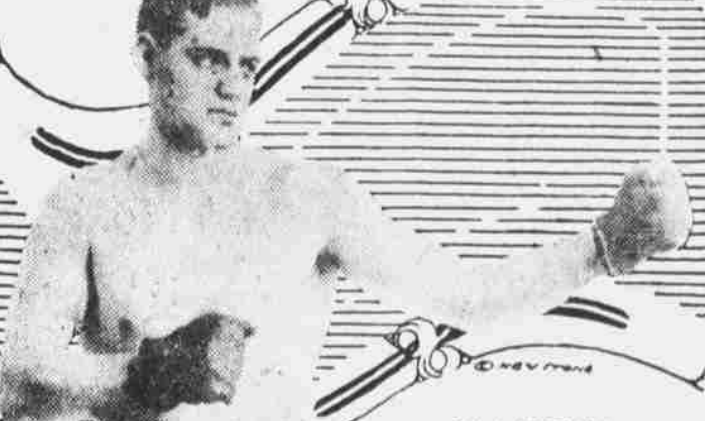
Burling Grimes, star spitball pitcher of the Brooklyn Robins, champions of the National league, who is one of the few spitball pitchers remaining in the majors, makes a strong plea for the spitter.

Mr. Grimes is quoted at length on the proposition, and there's quite a gob of logic in what he has to say:

"The league club owners set up a mighty squawk when another of their class tamperers with some other magnum players. The howl is set up if the athlete and owner merely talk. The one maintains that the other owner has no right to talk to players under contract. Then, why is a group of club owners allowed to take the spitball delivery from men who have spent from 10 to 15 years of their short life to perfect it?"

"It takes from ten to 15 years to develop a big league caliber spitter. I developed one and a good one. Had I ever been able to master a curve ball I never would have worked so hard on the moist fling. That is the explanation for the existence of spitball."

BILL BRENNAN TO GET A CHANCE TO KISS THE CANVAS THIS MONTH



Bill Brennan, who has been anxious for many months to risk his ribs and lay in a bout with Champion Jack Dempsey, will get his chance early in December. The bout was scheduled for late summer, but was passed up by promoters who thought the Massachusetts state commissioner refused to stand for the bout in that state. Brennan packs an awful wallop and has lost but no one given him a chance against the giant killer.

Bo McMillan Made Colonel By Gov. Morrow

DANVILLE, Dec. 1.—At a banquet here last night given by the Danville chamber of commerce to the Centre college football squad, Gov. Edwin P. Morrow, the principal speaker, announced that he had made "Bo" McMillan, Centre's famous quarterback, a colonel on his staff.

The role of coach for his pitchers, to a man up a tree it looks as if Street is being selected to eventually become manager of the Crackers. Dick Kauffman is still manager of the Pine Bluff Y. M. C. A. team. The Pine Bluff outfit has lost but one game in three seasons, the Little Rock "Y" being the only machine to come out victorious after meeting them.

At any rate, Southern league fans are glad that Gabby is coming back. He's a whole-souled, popular athlete, and any league is better for having him within its confines.

A fan, who must be a blacksmith, judging from the way he wields the hammer, drops a communication to the effect that Memphis is not going to have a winning ball club next season, for the simple reason that "they never do." As he explains it:

But why get black in the face over it now? There's plenty of time to knock after the season begins. The local officials are lining up some good material, and unless the bottom drops out of present deals that are on the fire, there's no reason why the Crackers shouldn't go to the post as a pennant contender.

LEONARD SEEKS DEMPSEY

Dear Sir—I take this method of challenging Young Dempsey for an eight-round bout at the Memphis Athletic club, for the championship of the city.

I am not in doubt in the least as to being able to take Dempsey's measure. Rather, I will welcome an opportunity to meet him. Yours truly, JOHNNY LEONARD.

FRED MITCHELL TO MANAGE BRAVES

Former Cub Pilot Succeeds George Stallings at Boston.

BOSTON, Dec. 1.—The appointment of Fred Mitchell, who has been leader of the Chicago "Cubs" for the last three years, as field manager of the Boston Braves, has been announced by President George W. Griffith. In taking the place of George W. Stallings, Mitchell returns to the team for which he acted as batter coach before going to Chicago.

Xen Scott Named For Two More Years As Alabama Coach

UNIVERSITY, Ala., Dec. 1.—Announcement was made here last night by the athletic authorities of the University of Alabama that Xen Scott, coach of the Alabama football team for 1919 and 1920, had been re-signed for 1921 and 1922. Scott came to the university after having coached the strong Cleveland naval reserve eleven in 1918.

JOE WELLING BARRED FROM WISCONSIN RINGS

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 1.—Joe Welling, Chicago boxer, has been suspended from fighting in Wisconsin for one year by the state boxing commission after Referee Walter Houlahan and other witnesses testified that Welling had made an effort to do his best in a recent bout here with Lew Tendler. Tommy Walsh, Welling's manager, ascribed Welling's poor showing to an injured hand.

"Y" BASKETEERS GET TOGETHER FOR SEASON

Coach George Gleaves, of Local Association Quintet, Arranging Classy Card of Court Games—Memphis Team Should Be One of Strongest in the Southland This Year.

BY BOB PIGUE.

With football having taken its stylish departure, basketball comes upon the local sport stage.

Bluff City basketeers are getting busy and are planning one of the greatest seasons in the history of the indoor sport that Memphis quintets have ever enjoyed.

The local Y. M. C. A. team, which always is the premier basketball quintet of Memphis, should have the strongest array this season in the history of the organization, for not only are many of the regulars back on the job, but there are many high-class substitutes who can be called upon to sit in for any of the regulars who are out of the game for any reason.

Coach George Gleaves, who is physical director of the local "Y," plans to assemble two teams, one the regulars and the other the reserves. The two squads are already in training, and are getting in shape for the grind that is to start within a short time. According to Coach Gleaves, the Memphis "Y" quintet is anticipating nothing except a clean sweep this season, although they are going to meet some classy teams before the basketball year comes to a close.

Nashville from Memphis, where they will meet the Ramblers.

GO TO MEET RAMBLERS.

On Jan. 21-22 the local quintet will go to Nashville, where they will meet the Ramblers and Commodores. These games have always been hard fought, and should test the mettle of the Memphis fans.

The Ramblers will return the call of the local "Y" outfit on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, playing here on that date.

There will be many other strong teams playing here before the curtain rings down.

Among the quintets that are being sought for dates are Birmingham Y. M. C. A., University of Tennessee, Chicago Y. college and Illinois Athletic club.

It is also likely that Centre college of Danville, Ky., will play here. For McMillan, famous quarterback of the Praying Colonels, and Red Roberts, also a member of the grid squad, are on the basketball team. McMillan is captain and forward, while Roberts plays center.

STECHER DEFENDS TITLE.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 1.—Joe Stecher, world's champion heavy-weight wrestler, successfully defended his title here last night by winning from Salvatore Chevalier, a Frenchman, in straight falls. The first came in seven minutes 40 seconds with a body scissors and arm hold.

In the catch-as-catch-can bout Strangler Lewis defeated Raymond Cazaux, a Canadian, in straight falls. The first in 22 minutes 40 seconds with a headlock, and the second in seven minutes 35 seconds with a headlock and arm hold.

MAUPOME STILL WINS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—Pierre Maupome continued his steady play in the preliminaries for the national three-cushion billiard championship yesterday and defeated Augie Klechhefer, of Chicago, 50 to 42, in 65 innings, each man making a high run.

National The defeat dropped Klechhefer to fifth place in the tournament standings.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—A pitcher, James Coble, of an independent baseball team, Charleston, Ill., today was added to the staff of Chicago National. The club when Manager Evers signed him to a contract for 1921, making a total of 16 pitchers on the Cubs' staff for next season.

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\$18 Florsheim Shoes, new price \$12.95
\$16 Florsheim Shoes, new price \$10.95
\$14 Worthmore Shoes, new price \$ 9.95
\$12 Worthmore Shoes, new price \$ 8.95

Not a pair of shoes carried previous to our fire has been retained

Florsheim Shoe Store

85 South Main
Between Union and Gayoso

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—James T. Ferguson, of Shreveport, La., yesterday was elected captain of the New York university football team for 1921 season. He played at quarterback this year.

CUBS SEEK GIPP.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 1.—George Gipp, Notre Dame football star, last night received an offer from President Veck of the Chicago National league team of a place with the Cubs next spring. It was announced here, Gipp, who is seriously ill in a local hospital, has not given the proposal consideration. He is an outfielder.

FERGUSON CAPTAIN OF NEW YORK TEAM

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